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## Royal Secrets

**T**he White House has announced a new super classification known as "Royal." The category would supposedly be reserved for ultrasecret stuff, and only the President, a handful of White House officials and a few Congressmen would have access to it. Some may question whether this is a truly new system or a counterploy to reports that an intercepted Libyan cable about Billy Carter was classified Royal and that the term is actually "a compartmental designation to protect the White House from political embarrassment," in the words of *New York Times* columnist William Safire.

The official explanation is that Director of Central Intelligence Stansfield Turner and Zbigniew Brzezinski plumped for the new system. It seems there is so much classified material being turned out these days that intelligence people can't tell the difference between normal and really sensitive information.

Rather than set up a private Presidential security system (with access limited to a Royal "we"—shades of Richard Nixon!), we propose that all classified material—whether Confidential or Top Secret Umbra or so secret that the classification is classified or even Eyes Only Rosalynn—be declassified and deposited in a Spy Library. The Spy Library would be open to all foreign agents, registered or unregistered, who can prove a sincere interest in espionage. It will be an open-stack library with all the documents precisely indexed. The spies will thus be free to snoop around to their hearts' content. The difference is that they will no longer have their work done for them by the Government. Without the various levels of classification clearly stamped on each document, it will be impossible for them to tell what is a "normal" secret and what is a "really sensitive" one. *The Nation* volunteers to serve as a repository for this material if the Carnegie people will come up with a suitable building. Something in travertine marble, please.